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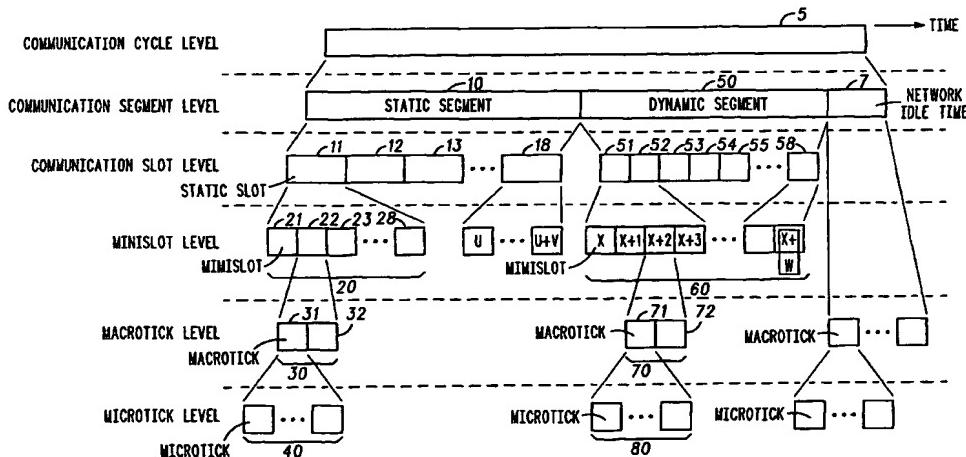
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM NODE AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING MEDIA ARBITRATION IN A TIME-SLOTTED SYSTEM



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(57) Abstract: A multi-node communications system is provided with communications protocol using both static (11, 12, 13, 18) (pre-determined) and dynamic (51, 52, 53...) (run-time determined) consecutive communication slots is used. The system has a number of distributed communication nodes, each node being arranged for communicating frames of data with the other nodes during both the static (11, 12, 13...) and the dynamic (51, 52, 53...) communication slots. Each node includes a synchronized time base 5 made up of consecutive timeslots (11, 12, 13..., 51, 52, 53...). The timebase 5 has substantially the same error tolerance in each node. For static communication (10), a predetermined number of timeslots (20) are utilized for each static communication slot. For dynamic communication a dynamically allocated number of timeslots (60) are utilized for each dynamic communication slot. In this way both static and dynamic media arbitration is provided within a periodically recurring communication pattern. Communication jitter is well defined and dealt with, and large oscillator drifts are compensated for.



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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	<p>BERWANGER J ET AL: "FLEXRAY - THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS" SAE TECHNICAL PAPER SERIES, SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, WARRENDALE, PA, US, vol. 2001-1-676, 5 March 2001 (2001-03-05), XP009023349 ISSN: 0148-7191 the whole document</p> <p>---</p> <p>PELLER M ET AL: "byteflight specification Version 0.5 Draft" BMW AG, 29 October 1999 (1999-10-29), XP002201782 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.byteflight.com/specification/default.htm> 'retrieved on 2002-06-07! the whole document</p> <p>---</p> <p>---</p>	1-12
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